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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06
PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /052 W
----------101940Z 126619 /46
R 101517Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2894
INFO USDOC/MARAD

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DEPT PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO TPI-42

USDOC FOR MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INLAND WATERWAYS EXCHANGE VISITS

SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS BLACKWELL MET IN MOSCOW WITH OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE RIVER FLEET OF THE RFSFR AND THE SOVIET STATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JANUARY 4, 1977, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET SIDE. SOVIET PURPOSE WAS TO PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE OF RIVER TRANSPORT OFFICIALS TO STUDY NAVIGATION AND TRAFFIC CONTROL. BLACKWELL IN ACCEPTING FOR CONSIDERATION A SOVIET-PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR A FEBRUARY TO MARCH, 1977, VISIT, SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH OFFICIALS OF COMPANIES THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT AND ADVISE THEM THROUGH EMBASSY MOSCOW AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS ANY INTEREST ON THE AMERICAN SIDE IN A SOVIET VISIT OR AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE IN MOSCOW FOR MARITIME RATE AND UNDERCARRIAGE NEGOTIATIONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROBERT J. BLACKWELL MET, AT
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THEIR REQUEST, WITH VIKTOR PETROVCHEV, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE RFSFR MINISTRY OF THE RIVER FLEET, AND OLEG N. MOROSOV OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE JANUARY 4 IN THE MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT MINISTRY PRESENT. SOVIET OFFICIALS HANDED BLACKWELL A PROPOSED

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SCHEDULE FOR A VISIT TO U.S. INLAND WATERWAY FACILITIES IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH, 1977, BY A SIX-MAN SOVIET DELEGATION. THEY ADVISED AT OUTSET THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO AGREE ON A DATE FOR THE VISIT AND THAT MARCH WOULD BE PREFERABLE. HOWEVER, RESPONDING TO BLACKWELL'S QUESTIONS, IT DEVELOPED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET EVEN INFORMED THEIR PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN HOSTS ABOUT THE DESIRED VISIT, WHICH SO FAR REFLECTED ONLY A SOVIET INTEREST.

2. ACCORDING TO PETROVCHEV, SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF CAPTAINS AND NAVIGATORS OF RIVER BOATS, WITH PERHAPS ONE OFFICIAL FROM THE RFSFR MINISTRY OF THE RIVER FLEET. HE EXPLAINED THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO STUDY U.S. NAVIGATION AND TRAFFIC CONTROL. HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING SOME PROBLEMS IN OPERATING NEW 27,000-30,000 TON BARGES ON THE VOLGA AND OTHER RIVERS AND WISHED TO HAVE BENEFIT OF U.S. EXPERIENCE.

3. IN RETURN, SOVIET OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY A U.S. DELEGATION OF APPROXIMATELY SIX PERSONS TO STUDY SOVIET INLAND TRANSPORT. IF DESIRED, U.S. DELEGATION COULD BE SOMEWHAT ENLARGED.

4. BLACKWELL INFORMED PETROVCHEV THAT BEFORE RESPONDING HE WISHED TO RETURN HOME AND CONSULT U.S. OFFICIALS AS TO THEIR AVAILABILITY AND INTERESTS AND TO INQUIRE WHETHER THEY PERCEVIED A MUTUAL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE. HE SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE RESPONSE, THROUGH EMBASSY MOSCOW,
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ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

5. DURING THIS DISCUSSION BLACKWELL INQUIRED WHICH MINISTRY IN THE USSR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL CARGO BEING TRANSPORTED ON SOVIET INLAND WATERWAYS. SOVIET OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE ON THIS JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, INLAND WATERWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW00354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3633102
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INLAND WATERWAYS EXCHANGE VISITS SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS BLACKWELL MET IN MOSCOW WITH OFFI CIALS OF THE MINI
TAGS: EGEN, EWWT, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/50f3b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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